

Remarks

Response to Restriction Requirement

Restriction was required to one of:

- I. Claims 1 - 10, said to be drawn to a method for manufacturing a magnetic write element; or
- II. Claims 11 and 12, said to be drawn to a magnetic write element and a data storage and retrieval system.

Applicants elect to prosecute the Group I invention in this application.

Applicant notes that claims 11 and 12 are in “product-by-process” form (each reciting the process of any of claims 1 - 10). Claims 13 - 22 are newly added herein, in a “product-by-process” form as is claim 11, but each claim separately reciting respectively one of claims 1 - 10; and claims 23 - 32 are newly added herein, in a “product-by-process” form as is claim 12, but each claim separately reciting respectively one of claims 1 - 10. Accordingly, to the extent that any of claims 1 - 10 may be deemed allowable, the Requirement for Restriction should be withdrawn as to the corresponding product-by-process claim[s], and those product-by-process claim[s] should be allowed.

Preliminary Amendment

The specification and drawings have been proofread, and the specification and claims are amended herein to correct obvious errors of a typographical or editorial nature. Claims 13 - 32 are newly added, separately calling out the recitations of claims 11 and 12, as noted above. No new matter is introduced by any of the amendments, and entry thereof is requested.

Particularly as to the drawings: in amended Fig. 1A, lead lines and reference numerals 28 are added (*see, e.g.*, specification at lines 15 *et seq.* on page 1), and arrows 1B-1B are added to indicate the location of a sectional view of Fig. 1B (*see, e.g.*, specification at lines 9 - 10 on page 6); in Fig. 2B, the legend “(Prior Art)” is added (*see, e.g.*, specification at lines 13 - 14 on page 6); in Fig. 4, the text in box 422 is changed to correct a misspelling of “second”; and in Fig. 5, an unnecessary lead line (having no reference numeral) is removed.

Consideration of the application, as amended, is requested.

If the Examiner determines that a conference would facilitate prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone Applicants' representative, undersigned, at the telephone number set out below.

Respectfully submitted,

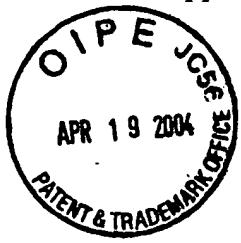
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Attachment

7 Replacement Sheets (Formal Drawings), 1/7 - 7/7

4 Annotated Sheets Showing Changes

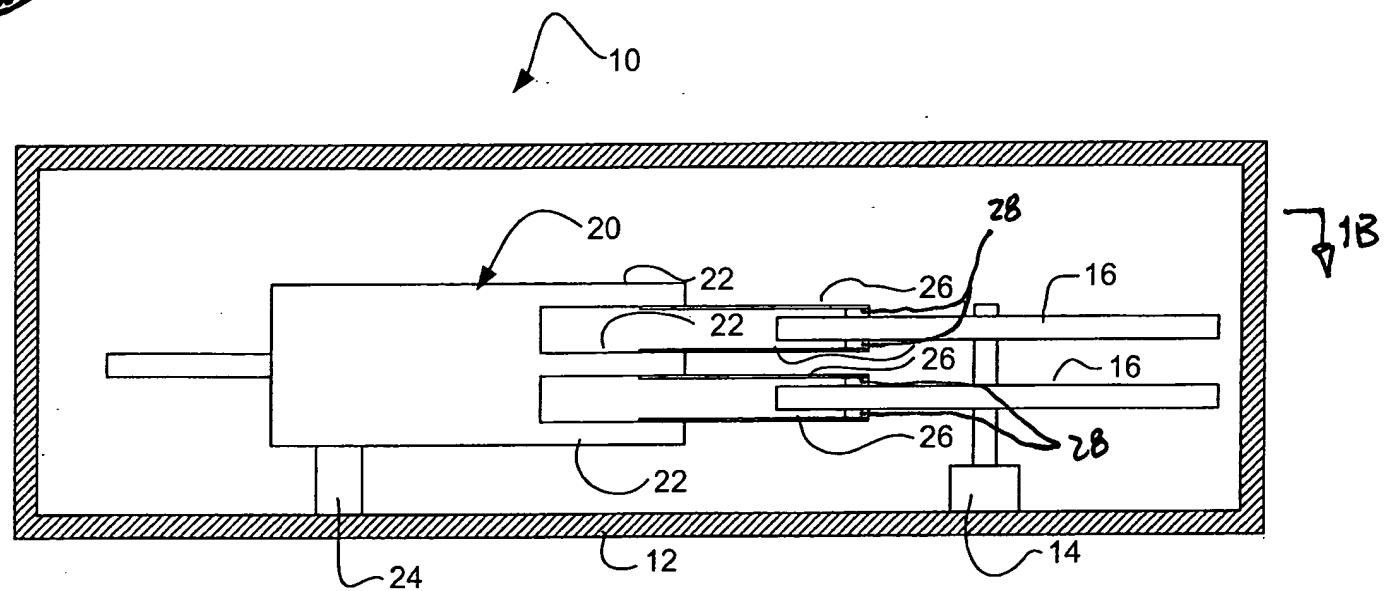


FIGURE 1A (PRIOR ART)

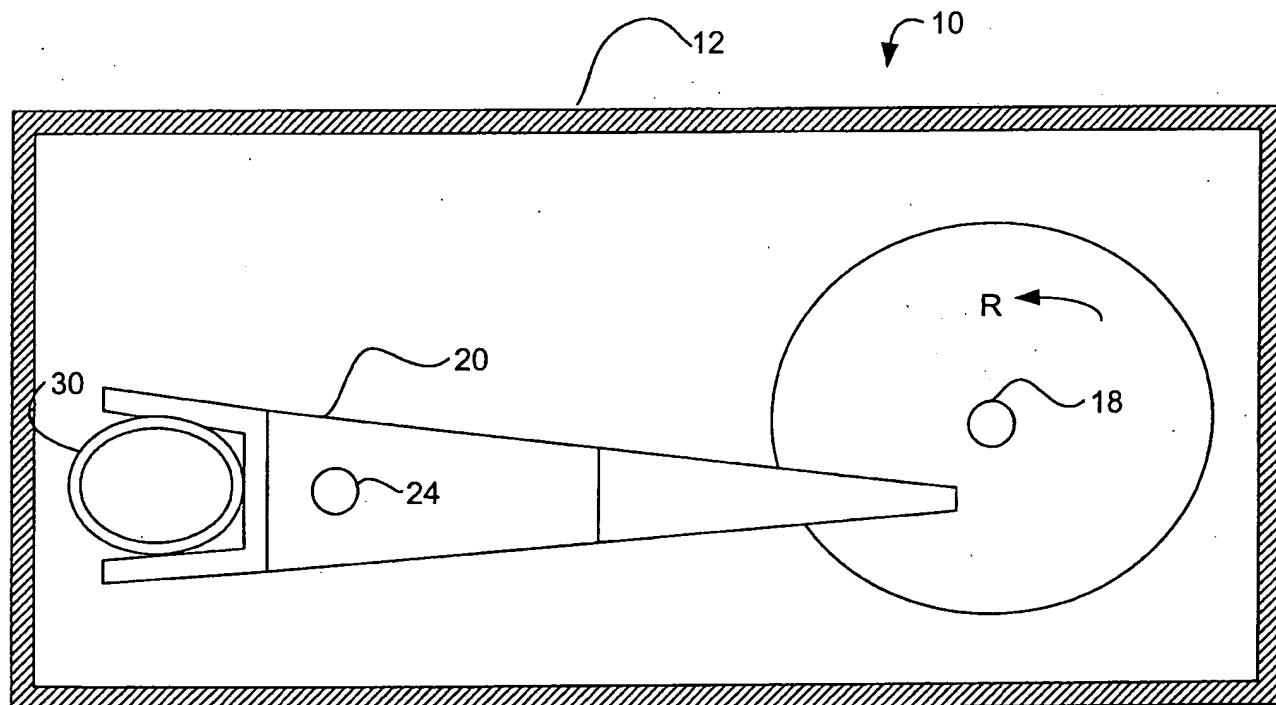
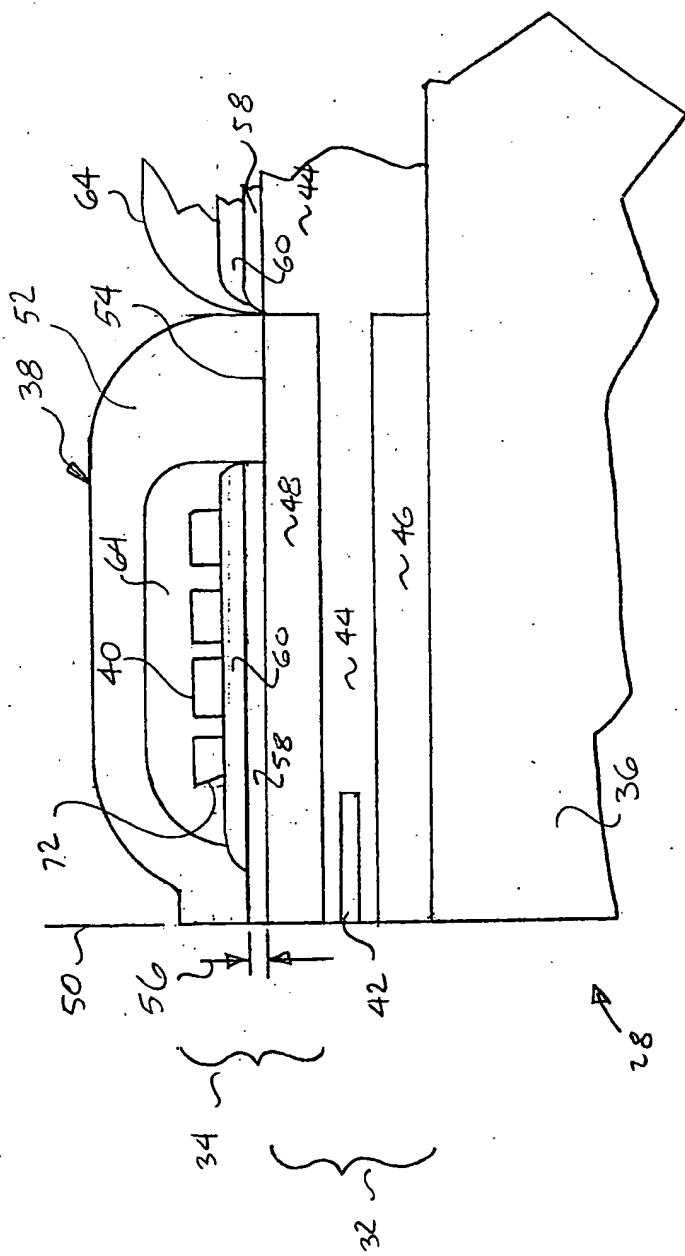


FIGURE 1B (PRIOR ART)



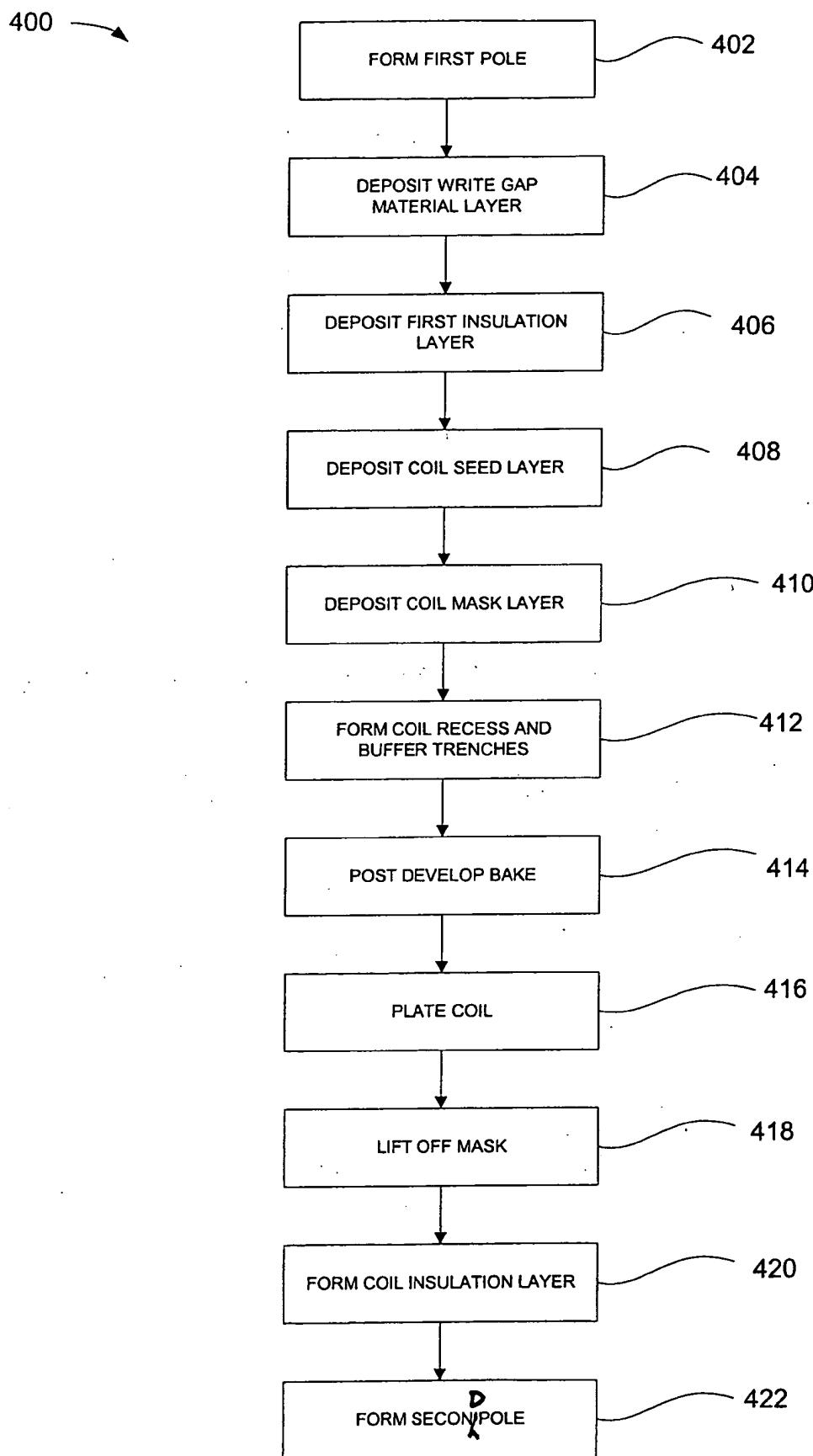


FIGURE 4

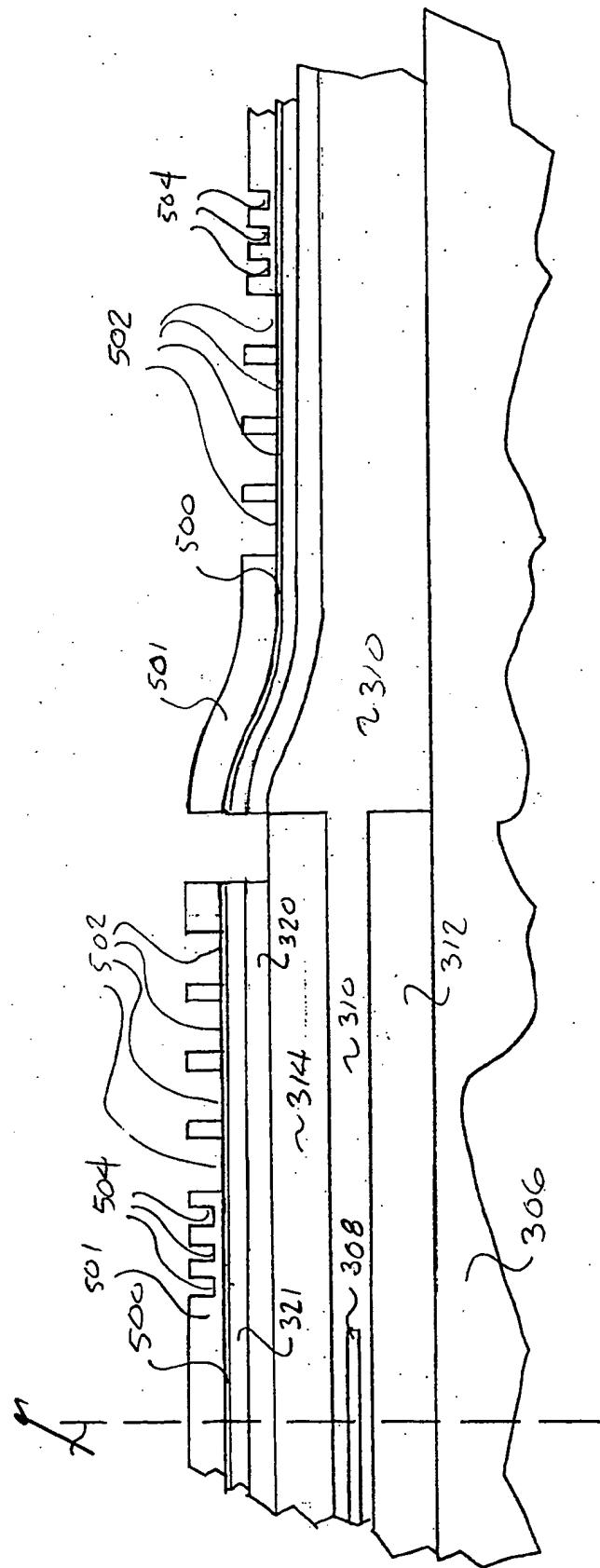


FIG 5